(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the proposal has been under consideration for several months and that it is expected to be activated as a follow up to the presidential visit; and

(c) if so, the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen the news item referred to in the Question. The news item, written before President Clinton's visit, quoted unnamed "diplomatic observers" in Delhi as suggesting that the US may appoint a Special Co-ordinator for Kashmir after President Clinton's visist to South Asia.

(b) Soon after the armed intrusion in Kargil and the adverse comments in the US circles on Pakistan's misadventure, there was an attempt by Pakistan backed lobbies to seek the support of the members of the US Congress for the appointment of a Special US Envoy for Kashmir. The US Administration rejected the proposal to appoint a Special Envoy for Kashmir.

(c) Government does not react to comments attributed to unnamed non-official sources. Government has noted that both before and during his visit to India, President Clinton had stated that the US will not mediate on Kashmir.

Pakistan's offer to pick-up stalled Negotiations

*556. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan had lately offered to India to pick-up the stalled negotiations following the Kargil war;

(b) if so, when and on what terms; and

(c) what was Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) General pervez Musharraf and several spokesmen of the military regime in Pakistaan have in their recent poublic statements expressed the view that India and Pakistan should resume talks, but on an agenda determined by Pakistan.

(c) India, as the initiator of the dialogue process remains committed to a relationship of peace, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan. Towards that end, at our initiative, the Composite Dialogue Process was put in place. It is our view that a proper environment for meaningful dialogue has now to be

restored by Pakistan. For, post Kargil and after the military take over in that country, Pakistan has enhanced its sponsorship and support of cross-borders terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, as also elsewhere in India. It has continued to indulge in unprovoked firing across the Line of Control and the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir. Its call for Jehad and other hostile propaganda against India has also gone on unabated. Besides, recently, General Musharraf has also reportedly repeated that he does not believe in the Simla Agreement or the Lahore Declaration.

It is the Govenment's view that it is for Pakistan to revert to the path of peace and normaley, to reaffirm the established essentials of bilateral relations between our two countries, and thus, restore a climate congenial to a resumption of the interrupted dialogue process.

Small Scale Industries in Uttar Pradesh

*557 PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:-

(a) the details of small scale industries set up in the State of Uttar Pradesh particularly in rural areas of the State as on 31st March, 2,000;

(b) if so, the details of total funds proposed, sanctioned and released by Govenment for the State during the last five years; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES(SHRTMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The number of Small Scale units registered in Uttar Pradesh as on 31st March, 2000 was 4,04,617. Separate information on number of units set up in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh is not maintained.

(b) An amount of Rs. 4304 crore has been provided as the 9th Plan outlay to the Ministry of SSI & ARI for development and promotion of small & cottage industries. During the year 1997-98 and 1998-99, actual expenditure incurred under the Plan scheme was Rs. 735.10 crore and Rs. 708.30 crore respectively. The estimated excpenditure for the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 640 crore. For the year 2000-2001, the outlay is Rs. 920 crore. The funds for the development of small scale sector are released by the Govenment scheme-wise and not state-wise.